Appointment of M/S A.F. Ferguson for Telecom Department

203. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that A.F. Ferguson has been appointed to prepare the corporatisation plan for the Telecom Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) A Consortium of Consultants led by M/S. A. F. Ferguson and Company has been appointed as the Consultant to assist in the development and implementation of a viable strategy for corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services. The Consortium consists of M/s. A. F. Ferguson and Co. M/s N. M. Rothschild & sons. ABN-AMRO Bank N. V. and M/s JDB Dadachanji & Co. The corporate entity is proposed to be launched on 1st October, 2000.

Expenditure incurred by Cabinet Ministers and their Staff on Telephones

†204. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the bi-monthly telephone-wise details of expenditure incurred on the telephones provided to the Cabinet Ministers at their offices and residences from 1st July, 1997 onwards till date and name-wise details of expenditure incurred on the telephones provided to their staff members at their offices and residences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The information regarding expenditure on the official and residential phones of different Cabinet Ministers and their staff is available only with the respective Ministries. MTNL allots telephones only in the name of the Ministry. In respect of the Hon'ble Minister for Commuications and his staff, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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